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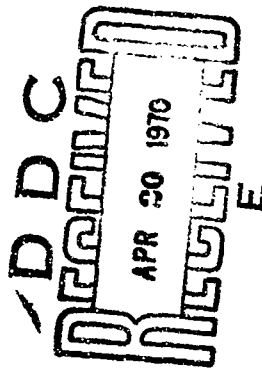
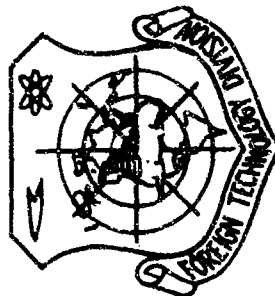
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON ORGANIZATION
OF SCIENCE IN THE USSR

by

Author Unknown



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IN THE USSR

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PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON ORGANIZATION OF SCIENCE IN THE USSR

The task of socialism, Lenin used to point out, is to enlist all the achievements of culture in the service of the workers' interests. Our party and government create all the necessary conditions for increased rates of scientific and technical progress and for the building of a better economic and societal life on this basis. To an ever increasing degree, science in our country is becoming a direct productive force.

There is a year-to-year expansion and consolidation of the supreme headquarters of Soviet science - the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Long since past are the days when for the most part scientific development was limited to the central regions of the country. Today, facilities of the Academy are to be found in the most remote corners of the Soviet Union. By its works a worldwide reputation has been won by the Siberian Branch of the Academy, while important contributions to scientific thought are being made by the Bashkir, Karelian, Kola, and other branches. New and important science centers are being founded in the Urals and in the Far East.

This flowering of Soviet science and culture exemplifies vividly the triumph of Lenin's policy with respect to nationalities, as implemented by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. Only under the socialist system have once culturally and economically backward peoples been given all the means necessary, in a brief historical span, to move from the benightedness of ignorance to the highest cultural attainments. An impressive testimony to this progress is to be found in the fruitful activity of the republic-level academies of sciences, in-

cluding also those former outposts of Zsarist Russia where a half-century ago even a literate man was a rarity among the native population:

At the present time, the academies of sciences of the union republics represent highly developed complexes of scientific facilities. They are, as a rule, characterized by an effective combination of extensive fundamental research of a theoretical nature, on the one hand, with the practical application of derivative results to the specific needs of various branches of the national economy, on the other. In addition, in each of these academies there may be quite particular scientific pursuits, as determined by the nature of the productive capabilities of the republic in question and by the schools of science which have taken root there. Recognized throughout the world, for example, are the achievements of the Byurakan Astrophysical Laboratory, the Paton Electrowelding Institute, the Institutes of Cybernetics in Kiev and Tashkent, the Institute of Mathematics in Minsk, and numerous other scientific organizations. Renowned science facilities for physicists and mathematicians, chemists and biologists, breakthroughs in the development of new equipment, materials, and technologies - all this is but a far-from-complete list of the entire range of successes reaped by our union republic science academies.

Science in our country is evolving not only within the walls of academic institutions, but also at numerous branch-associated scientific research institutes, in the problem-oriented and industrially-related laboratories of higher institutes of learning, at experimental stations and test bases, and directly on the enterprise level itself. Significant progress has been made in the development of the social sciences; in recent years definitive works have been published in the fields of history and philosophy, philology, literary criticism, applied economics, and in still other disciplines.

Recently, the observance of the so-called Lenin Days of Science in the Union Republics ended in Moscow with a review of the scientific accomplishments of the Ukraine. This was a brilliant demonstration of the outstanding achievements of science and culture and of the enormous economic and social transformations which the peoples of our country have won during the years of the Soviet administration.

The advances of science in the union republics, then, are considerable and irrefutable. At the same time, the conditions of the contemporary revolution in science and engineering confront the republic science academies, as well as Soviet science as a whole, with important new challenges. What is involved is the marriage of theoretical research with active participation in the solution of problems in the building of a Communist society which are of interest to the whole people, and in the study of regional issues of vital importance to each economic region - all of which can ultimately be resolved to the broader practical application of science to actual production practice. Regrettably, to this very day much research never gets beyond the stage of scientific experimentation. What is required is that valuable innovative thinking be embodied in concrete form.

There should be a stricter approach to the planning of scientific activities. There are still occasional tendencies in certain republic academies to take in practically all areas of scientific inquiry, which can only result in a indefensible dissipation of personnel and funds. The principal criteria in the drafting of research schedules should be the availability of highly trained staff personnel capable of directing a specific line of work, the requirements of the productive facilities of the republic, and, finally, concrete economic expedience.

In this context it is particularly important that close liaison be maintained between the republic-level academies and that more difficult problems be attacked in common. Two years ago, certain steps in this direction were undertaken by the

academies of sciences of Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenistan, and Kirgizia, but collaboration between these academies is developing slowly. At the same time, were they to pool their efforts more efficiently, they would be in a position more effectively to attack such problems as the exploitation of desert areas, subsurface water utilization, and the harnessing of solar energy. There are many scientific problems of mutual concern to Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaydshan which could be solved by the joint efforts of the academies of these republics. The same might be said of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Close creative communications, under the aegis of the Council for the Coordination of the Scientific Activity of the Union Republic Academies of Sciences, established under the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, will unquestionably promote more rapid and effective solutions to a host of scientific and technical problems.

It is the job of the party committees to devote more attention to the republic-level academies of sciences and to all scientific research facilities in general. It was underscored at the December Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the CPSU that progress in science and technology plays an enormous role in the consolidation of the socialist economy. The intimate merging of science and production has become an imperative of the times. Party committees are obliged to direct scientific staffs and collectives to the solution of truly important scientific and technical problems of direct relevance to the national economy, and to assist them in the actual implementation of their creative thinking. For the fact is that progress in science must in all cases serve progress in production and aid in the erection of the material and technical basis of the Communist state.

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<p>The Soviet "Pravda" article generalizes about Socialism, Social Science, and various Scientific Research Institutes. The editorial advocates increased liaison between Research Institutes to become more efficient and effective in solving problems of mutual interest. Important Soviet science centers are being founded in the Urals and Far East.</p>		

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